

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: OEXC, BU

SUBJECT: CULTURAL EXCHANGE WITH BULGARIA

STATE FOR CU/EE

BUDAPEST FOR P&C (PASS YALE RICHMOND)

REF: A) SOFIA 1985; B) STATE 249931

1. WHILE IN LENINGRAD LAST WEEK AMBASSADOR VISITED THRACIAN EXHIBIT

WHICH IS BEING SHOWN IN HERMITAGE. IT IS AN IMPRESSIVE EXHIBIT, BEAUTIFULLY DISPLAYED, INCLUDING ALSO SOME STUNNING GOLD OBJECTS. WE HAVE THE SOVIET CATALOGUE WHICH WILL BE FORWARDED, AND HOPE TO OBTAIN CATALOGUE OF PARIS SHOWING.

2. MEANWHILE P&C OFFICER COFMAN HAD INITIAL MEETING WITH ALEXANDER FOL, S EPUTY CHAIRMAN, GOB COMMITTEE ON ART AND CULTURE. FOL NOTED THRACIAN EXHIBIT HAD BEEN DISCUSSED INFORMALLY BUT POSITIVELY WITH FORMER CU/EE DEPUTY DIRECTOR FORD DURING LATTER'S VISIT HERE IN JULY AND SAID BULGARIAN SIDE WISHES TO MOVE AHEAD.

3. FOL ALSO SAID THAT IN RESPONEJ TO U.S. SHOWING OF THRACIAN EXHIBIT GOB WOULD BE ABLE ACCEPT U.S. EXHIBIT. P&C OFFICER NOTED UPCOMING VISIT OF CU/EE DIRECTOR RICHMOND, WHICH WOULD PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY DISCUSS SUBJECT IN GREATER DETAIHWN BUT STATED USG DOES NOT RPT NOT REQUIRE RECIPROCITY, AS IMPLIED IN FOL'S LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COMMENT ON U.S. EXHIBIT COMING TO BULGARIA. FOL REPLIED,

SIGNIFICANTLY WE THINK, THAT RECIPROCITY IS NOT "FIRST PRINCIPLE" OF BULGARIAN POLICY.

4. UNFORTUNATELY FOL WILL BE IN IRAN WHILE RICHMOND VISITS HERE, BUT THERE WILL BE OPPORTUNITIES TO MEET WITH TWO OF HIS SUBORDINATES WHO ARE AWARE OF SITUATION. MEANWHILE SMITHSONIAN SHOULD KNOW THAT THRACIAN EXHIBIT IS COMMITTED UNTIL MARCH 1976 WHEN IT COULD BE AVAILABLE FOR SHIPMENT TO U.S. AT APPROPRIATE TIME WE SHOULD THINK IN TERMS OF SENDING A MUSEUM SPECIALIST HERE TO DISCUSS DETAILS, WHICH IS WHAT FRENCH AND BRITISH HAVE DONE.

5. FOL PROMISED PROVIDE COPIES OF CONTRACTS WITH WESTERN MUSEUMS. HE ALSO NOTED BULGARIANS WILL REPORT ON THRACIAN HISTORY AND ART AT HISTORICAL SCIENCE CONGRESS NEXT SUMMER IN SAN FRANCISCO, WHICH WILL PREPARE U.S. PUBLIC OPINION FOR THE EXHIBIT.

6. AS THINGS ARE DEVELOPING, IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT WITH STRATEGY APPROVED BY DEPT AS PER REFTTEL B, WE WILL HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO PUT ON AT LEAST ONE MAJOR EVENT HERE, NOT NECESSARILY AS LATE AS A PROSPECTIVE SHOWING OF THRACIAN EXHIBIT IN U.S. AS INDICATED REF A, WE BELIEVE THIS SHOULD BE SOMETHING THAT WILL MAKE A REAL IMPACT IN BULGARIA. WE ARE THEREFORE LOOKING FORWARD TO RESPONSE AS PROMISED PARA 3, REF B.
HERZ

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